

## Preparedness and Planning

### Isolation and Quarantine in the Case of Drug-resistant TB

In [this commentary](#), the author reviews the recent case of an American diagnosed with extensively drug resistant tuberculosis (XDR TB), who flew to Europe and then to Canada, and was eventually served with an isolation order from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While the public health authority held by the states and the federal government is given great deference by courts, that power is constrained by the constitutional guarantees of equal protection and due process. The power to impose isolation and quarantine can be, and historically often has been, used in an abusive and discriminatory manner. There are questions that have not been resolved by the courts, including determination of patient non-compliance and the legal definition of "least restrictive alternative".



### Reusable Face Masks

Quality commercial masks are not always accessible, but [anecdotal evidence](#) has showed that handmade masks of cotton gauze were protective in military barracks and in healthcare workers during the Manchurian epidemic. A simple, locally made, washable mask may be a solution if commercial masks are not available.

### Liability Protections for Volunteers

The National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws has approved [two new sections](#) of the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act, concerning civil liability protections and workers compensation benefits.

### GAO on EMAC

The Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) is a collaborative arrangement among member states that provides a legal framework for requesting resources. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) was asked to (1) examine how the use of EMAC has changed since its inception; (2) assess how well existing policies, procedures, and practices facilitate collaboration; and (3) evaluate the adequacy of the EMAC network's administrative capacity to achieve its mission. [GAO recommended](#) further enhancement of the administrative capacity required to support the EMAC network and to develop guidance and to formalize certain procedures to alleviate burdens experienced by EMAC members during catastrophic disasters.



## News

### Hospitals to Test for MRSA

Some Metro Detroit hospitals will start swabbing the noses of arriving patients to test them for one of the most problematic bacteria, in response to the growing threat of drug-resistant infections. Those patients found carrying Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) -- even if they don't have infections -- will be isolated in rooms where hospital staff can take special precautions (such as wearing gowns and gloves) to keep the organism from spreading.

### Michigan Sees Increase in Rabies Cases

The Michigan Disease Surveillance System has indicated a significant increase in rabies cases in Michigan. As of August 22, 130 animals have tested positive for rabies in 2007. That figure is up from 49 cases in 2006. See [page 3](#) for more information.

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue:  
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## Communications

### Michigan's Preparedness Website Adds Wildfires Page

On August 8, Governor Jennifer Granholm declared a State of Emergency in Luce County due to raging wildfires. To date, the [Sleeper Lakes wildfire](#) has claimed more than 18,000 acres. To increase awareness and better protect the public, the Office of Public Health Preparedness added numerous wildfire resources on the [Michigan Preparedness website](#).

### What's Your RQ?

Just how prepared is the entire nation for an emergency like a terrorist attack? And how prepared are you and your family for an emergency in your community, like a power outage, major weather conditions, or a natural disaster? To find out, the Council for Excellence in Government has developed two important [barometers](#) to help individuals and communities actually measure their readiness and preparedness.

### New Preparedness Videos for Seniors, Persons with Disabilities, and Pet Owners

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Ready Campaign has released three new [demonstration videos](#) designed to highlight the specific steps older Americans, individuals with disabilities and special needs, and pet owners should take to prepare for emergencies.

### Ready.gov Adds Preparedness Videos

In order to encourage Americans to prepare themselves, their families and their communities, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, in partnership with The Advertising Council, has created [instructional videos](#) to help



educate and empower Americans to prepare for and respond to all kinds of emergencies. The first set of instructional videos, released in English and Spanish, are designed to detail how American families get an emergency supply kit, make a family emergency plan, and be informed about the different types of emergencies in their community. Homeland Security and the Ad Council have also created additional instructional videos with specific information for pet owners, older Americans and individuals with disabilities and other special needs.

### Florida's "Fifth Guy" Campaign

We all know a Fifth Person – the guy who doesn't wash his hands, the gal who shows up at work sick, the dude who sprays us with spittle. [This website](#) from the Florida Department of Health provides tips on how to drop just the right hint – how to say, "Hey, stop getting us all sick." In addition, the website provides information on how to decide when to stay home from work, tips for bosses on how to keep sick workers at home, how to prepare for the flu season, and a personal hygiene test.

## Surveillance

### Key Differences Between Bird Flu and Human Flu

Scientists at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital have found [key features](#) that distinguish influenza viruses found in birds from those that infect humans. The St. Jude team used a mathematical technique to identify specific

amino acid building blocks that are statistically more likely to appear in avian influenza virus proteins and those that are more likely to be in human influenza virus proteins. The differences in these amino acids can be used as markers to track changes in H5N1 avian influenza strains that threaten humans.

### WHO Releases *World Health Report*

The World Health Organization (WHO) released their [\*World Health Report\*](#), which shows how the world is at increasing risk of disease outbreaks, epidemics, industrial accidents, natural disasters and other health emergencies. The *Report* explains how the revised International Health Regulations (2005), which came into force this year, help countries to work together to identify risks and act to contain and control them. The regulations are needed because no single country, regardless of capability or wealth, can protect itself from outbreaks and other hazards without the cooperation of others. The *Report* states that the prospect of a safer future is within reach - and that this is both a collective aspiration and a mutual responsibility.



### Michigan Sees Increase in Rabies Cases

The Michigan Disease Surveillance System has indicated a significant increase in [rabies cases](#) in Michigan in 2007. As of August 22, 130 animals have tested positive for rabies. That figure is up from just 49 cases in 2006. After the institution of mandatory rabies vaccinations for dogs in the 1960s, wildlife species became the most frequently infected animals. In Michigan, bat rabies is the prevalent strain identified, and it is usually transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected animal.

## Pandemic Planning

### NIH Scientists Target Future Pandemic Strains

A team at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Maryland and the Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta said they have developed a [strategy](#) to generate vaccines and therapeutic antibodies that could target predicted H5N1 mutants before these viruses evolve naturally. This advance was made possible by creating mutations in the region of the H5N1 hemagglutinin (HA) protein that directs the virus to bird or human cells and eliciting antibodies to it.

### Panel Discussion on Potential Global Pandemics

The Charlie Rose Science Series investigates the importance of scientific research and exploring advances in human health, the future of scientific discovery and its impact on society. In [this episode](#), the panel discusses the possibility of a global pandemic, including influenza, drug-resistant tuberculosis, and polio. They consider issues of worldwide preparedness and response preparation to potential threats.

### CDC Updates Their Influenza Pandemic Operation Plan

The Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) Influenza Pandemic [Operation Plan](#) delineates how they will prepare for and fight this potentially devastating outbreak of infectious disease for our nation, and the world. Information provided in this OPLAN is intended as directive guidance for subordinate CDC organizations but will assist responsible individuals and others at all levels outside CDC to understand operational planning.

### New Study on Pandemic Community Mitigation Measures

The findings, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, provide vital clues to help public officials planning for the next influenza pandemic and highlight the importance of community strategies. These strategies are particularly important because the intervention most likely to provide the best protection against pandemic influenza -- a vaccine -- is unlikely to be available at the outset of a pandemic. Community strategies that delay or reduce the impact of a pandemic (also called non-pharmaceutical interventions) may help reduce the spread of disease until a vaccine that is well-matched to the virus is available.



### Online 'Pandemic' a Virtual Gold Mine for Epidemiologists

Rutgers University is using the video game "[World of Warcraft](#)" to help simulate the spread of a pandemic virus. The game works by linking different people in different locations in the same place. A pandemic is spread mostly by human behavior, an action that the game creates by having many people playing different characters interacting together. This helps scientists simulate a spread of a virus among people and study its effects.

## Regional News

### Saginaw County Hosts Family Preparedness Day

The Saginaw County Citizen Corps is a group of volunteers with training to help communities get ready for disasters and respond when emergencies occur. The group is sponsoring Family Preparedness Day on September 30 at the Kern Pavilion in Frankenmuth's Heritage Park. Admission for this event is free. The event will include participation from police and fire agencies, Consumers Energy and others. The goal is to have county residents prepared to take care of themselves for 72 hours during a disaster. Contact the [Saginaw County Emergency Management Division](#) for more information.

## Other News

### Chicken Coops Are Terror Targets?

Are chicken coops the next battleground in the war on terror? Poultry growers are protesting proposed regulations from the Department of Homeland Security that would label propane gas a "chemical of interest" and require anybody with 7,500 pounds or more of the fuel to register with the agency. At that amount, poultry farmers who use propane to heat chicken houses would have to fill out the forms. By industry counts, up to 40,000 farms could be affected by the security proposal. The government says the registration rule is important to protect the country. British police in July thwarted a potentially devastating terrorist plot in

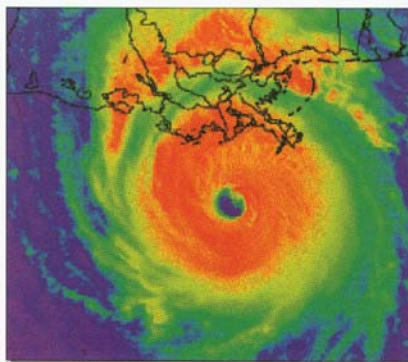




London after finding two Mercedes loaded with nails packed around canisters of propane and gasoline set to detonate. In Iraq, the military has seen propane tanks used in homemade bombs.

### Hurricane Dean

Hurricane Dean was the first major hurricane of the 2007 Atlantic hurricane season. It was the ninth most intense Atlantic hurricane ever recorded. Hurricane Dean took a west-northwest path through the Caribbean Sea, passing just to the south of Jamaica on August 20, making landfall in the Yucatan on August 21, and a second landfall near Tecolutla on August 22. At least twenty-four deaths have been reported and insured damage is estimated between \$1.5 billion and \$3 billion (USD). For the latest information on this and other hurricanes or potential hurricanes, please see the [National Hurricane Center website](#).



## Training & Education

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Aug. 27-28, 2007 7:15am-5:15pm	<b>Pediatric Disaster Management</b> Pediatric populations require a coordinated effort in both planning and clinical response. This conference provides an environment of collaborative learning, and is intended for those who play a role in the care and preparedness planning for children. Please see <a href="#">this document</a> for more information and registration details.	DeVos Place 303 Monroe Ave. NW Grand Rapids, MI 49503 T: (616) 742-6500
Sep. 11, 2007 8:30am-4pm	<b>Global Public Health Preparedness: Is It Possible?</b> A distinguished group of international and national speakers will provide unique perspectives on preparing for catastrophic health events to addressing global health issues, controlling emerging infectious diseases, and developing the public health workforce in the international community. Registration is free. Visit the University of Michigan's <a href="#">School of Public Health website</a> for more information.	OPHP * Library (517) 335-8150
Sep. 12, 2007 Sep. 19 Sep. 26 Oct. 3 9am-2pm	<b>Michigan Avian Influenza Rapid Response Workshops</b> This series of workshops will be used to review avian influenza response plans, familiarize participants with communication protocols of outside agencies, increase interagency response coordination, and to educate participants on the Safe Work Practices guidelines for avian influenza. Seating is limited. For more information, including registration details, please see the <a href="#">informational flyer</a> .	Gaylord Escanaba Grand Rapids Livonia

\* Please contact OPHP at least 24 hours prior to the broadcast.

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Sep. 13, 2007	<b>GLBHI Regional Symposium</b> You are invited to participate in a <a href="#">symposium</a> for the Great Lakes Border Health Initiative's (GLBHI) regional partners in Southeast Michigan and Southwestern Ontario. This event will provide an opportunity to develop professional relationships between cross-border public health partners and communicable disease staff to enhance surveillance and outbreak investigation of cross-border infectious disease events.	Hyatt Regency 600 Town Center Drive Dearborn, MI 48126 T: (313) 593-1234
Sep. 25-26, 2007	<b>Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials</b> This intermediate-level, one-day <a href="#">program</a> provides a comprehensive overview of regulations applicable to packaging and shipping laboratory specimens. Lectures, demonstrations, and group exercises will be used to provide instruction on complying with international, federal, and local transportation regulations. Participants will be tested on their knowledge of the regulations and receive documentation of attendance and testing.	Reynoldsburg, OH
Sep. 27, 2007 2-3pm	<b><a href="#">Public Health Is Global Health: An Innovative Approach to Fighting Disease in Uganda</a></b> The basic care package in Uganda highlights global work that demonstrates a reduction of morbidity and mortality among HIV positives and their families. Additionally, it demonstrates how to successfully integrate interventions to prevent multiple diseases; the importance of implementing research and evidence-based interventions; the challenge of designing sustainable interventions; and the value of getting buy-in at the national and local level to increase long-term health impact.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Oct. 5, 2007	<b><a href="#">Pandemic Influenza Summit</a></b> National and regional experts will explore the characteristics of pandemic influenza, its medical implications, and possible ways to minimize its effect on business, the economy and everyday life.	Wayne State University Gordon H. Scott Hall 540 E. Canfield Detroit, MI
Oct. 9, 2007 Oct. 11 Oct. 30 Nov. 1 Nov. 7 Nov. 8 Nov. 14 Nov. 15	<b>MDCH Immunization Conferences</b> This conference will update health care professionals on immunization issues that affect people of all ages - from infants to the elderly and everyone in-between. Each of these one-day conferences will provide participants with a variety of practice-management tools, techniques, and information that will help assure that all of their patients are fully and appropriately immunized. More information, including registration details, is <a href="#">available online</a> .	Marquette Gaylord East Lansing Troy Kalamazoo Kalamazoo Detroit Ypsilanti
Oct. 25-26, 2007	<b>Is Your Health Center Prepared for an Emergency?</b> Having a quality emergency preparedness plan is essential for maintaining services! This course will provide the knowledge, tools and resources needed to put a comprehensive plan together. See the <a href="#">informational flyer</a> for more information.	Michigan State Univ. <a href="#">Henry Center</a> 3535 Forest Road Lansing, MI 48910 (517) 353-4350

\* Please contact OPHP at least 24 hours prior to the broadcast.

Date/Time	Event Description	Location
Nov. 16, 2007	<p><b>Limited Healthcare Resources: Prioritizing Access in a Community Emergency, Cross-Border Perspectives</b></p> <p>The full-day program will examine, with audience participation, U.S. and Canadian perspectives on equitable allocation of scarce medical resources. What legal, medical, ethical and political factors come into play as prioritization models for limited distribution are designed and implemented? Registration details and materials will be available early fall 2007. Please contact the Baldy Center for Law &amp; Social Policy at (716) 645-2102 to register or for more information.</p>	TBD

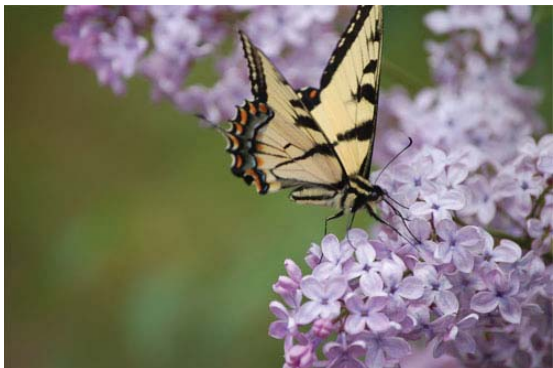


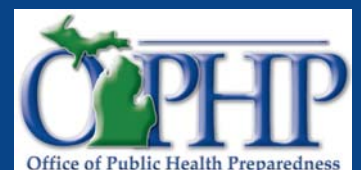
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Photo By: Emily B. Starke



Mailing Address:  
Office of Public Health Preparedness  
Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913  
(517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>



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